Development Programme has been launched for Renovation, Modernisation and Uprating activities of hydro stations.

Government of India has recently introduced 3 stage development of hydro-electric projects under Central sector with a view to reducing time and cost overrun in implementing the hydro-electric projects. The Central Electricity Authority has also completed a preliminary ranking of all the potential hydro sites in all river basins of the country based on technical and non-technical parameters.

Streamlining the power distribution system

†1146. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of some defects the present power distribution system is divided into various categories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the problem of power distribution in rural areas is more acute than in the industrial/metropolitan/VIP areas;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to adopt a concrete policy to prevent its impact on the agriculture and streamlining the power distribution system in rural areas particularly in respect of the power consumed in agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Power distribution system is divided into various categories depending on the voltage at which power is supplied, as given below:

* Sub-transmission and Distribution System - 66 KV, 33 KV
* HT Distribution System - 11 KV
* LT Distribution System - 415 V, 240 V

The problem of theft and pilferage is more acute in the LT Distribution System as compared to HT Distribution System. The

†. Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

problem of technical losses is also more acute in the low voltage system as compared to the high voltage and sub-transmission systems.

The problem of distribution of power in rural areas is on account of the network having been developed for the purpose of rural electrification, through extending unduly long LT lines, which results in poor voltage condition, poor quality of power and high T and D losses in the rural areas as compared to industrial/metropolitan/VIP areas, where the LT lines are relatively shorter. However, in the metropolitan/industrial areas/VIP areas, there is a problem of overloading of distribution transformers and feeder lines, which combined with high theft and pilferage, result in frequent tripping, increased T and D losses and poor quality of power supply.

The Government of India have launched a scheme called Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) to provide systematic financing to projects aimed at upgradation/strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network. For this purpose initially sixty distribution circles have been identified wherein techno-commercial interventions in the form of improving HT: LT ratio, increasing transformation capacity, reconductoring, reconfiguration of the entire network, metering and steps to reduce theft, are being implemented. It is proposed to take up remaining distribution circles in the country in a phased manner during the 10th Plan for upgradation/strengthening of the sub-transmission and distribution network. It is expected that after implementation of the projects, T and D losses will come down and also voltage and quality of power will improve.

APDP being an additional Central Plan Assistance also provides finances for renovation and modernization of old generating stations.

An amount of Rs.1000 crores was provided under APDP in the year 2000-01 and the same has been increased to Rs.1500 crores during 2001-02. A project in the special category State, gets entire resources under APDP in a combination of 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent Central loan, whereas a project in the non-special

category State, gets 50 per cent of the project cost under APDP in a combination of half grant and half loan and the balance 50 per cent is obtained by the project executing authority from Financial Institutions as loan.

Power sector reforms in Himachal Pradesh

1147. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made to take stock of the impact of power sector reforms under implementation in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the results achieved so far *vis-a-vis* cost of power to consumers, especially in backward areas in the State, T&D losses and electricity consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Government of Himachal Pradesh has started implementing power sector reforms based on the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the Ministry of Power on 31 March, 2001. This MoU is operative over a period of five years upto March, 2006 and the overall impact of the reforms is being monitored by the Ministry of Power.

(b) A detailed plan has been prepared by the Government of Himachal Pradesh to implement the MoU, which *inter alia* envisages the setting up Electricity Regulatory Commission. Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (HPERC) has started functioning. HPERC has already passed tariff order on 29.10.2001 which has been notified on 31.10.2001 to be effective from 1.11.2001. Himachal Pradesh Government is taking necessary steps under reform process for better distribution, management in reduction of T&D losses, computerization of operations, installation of electronic meters, establishment of separate account centres for accountability of three major areas of operations of the State Electricity Board *viz.* generation, transmission and distribution.